

15th ANNUAL NAVUA ROTUMAN FARMERS FOODSHOW 2016

“Working in unity whilst encouraging the younger generation to maintain, develop and improve farming skills.”

“Garue agetsea ma rak’akia rere ne veko se os fup Haharagi”



2016 Competitors

John Kaitu’u 75yrs of Maftoa, Itu’muta & Rigamoto Taito 21yrs of Lopta, Oinafa (Viwawa Hoaga)

Wesley Konrote 57yrs of Pephaua, Malhaha (Viwawa Hoaga)

Sam George 65yrs of Hapmafau, Itu’ti’u (Navua Hoaga)

Jioje Fonmoa 52yrs of Savlei, Itu’ti’u (Navua Hoaga)

Freddy Wesley 52yrs of Lopta, Oinafa (Rovadrau Hoaga)

Jioje Vafo’ou 52yrs of Itu’muta (Rovadrau Hoaga)

Jioje Aisea 64yrs of Lopta, Oinafa (Rovadrau Hoaga)

On Saturday, 28th May 2016, the Navua Rotuman Community gathered at the Serua Provincial Council Hall, Naitata, Navua for their 15th Annual Food-show. The fine weather was a blessing from above as the competitors and their families made their way to the venue. Guests and friends from as far as Lautoka, Valelevu and Suva corridor arrived in good numbers to witness first-hand what their brothers in Navua had yielded for the much awaited 2016 competition considering the wrath of category one cyclone Winston in the month of February.

The program commenced at 8.40a.m with Reverend Fereti Leo of the Saint Timothy Methodist Indian Circuit, Navua reminding everyone that each competitor has been *blessed and whether the yield was satisfactory or not, they were to give thanks, what you sow is what you reap and that the competitors are sowing the harvest for the last 9 – 11 months of nurturing and maintenance for this day – this is the day that the Lord has made. Rotuman Hymn 114 - Jisu Gagaja a Hanisim Ae* was sung – *mak ke’pel* after which the Minister delivered a prayer dedicating the day’s program and handed over to the Master of Ceremony.

The Chairman, Mr. Freddy Wesley in his address thanked Rev F.Leo for delivering a wonderful and inspirational message and then welcomed everyone and thanked them for their support in attending the event for the last decade plus 5 years and that they have also become part of the foodshow with their continuous support – they were no strangers and were to enjoy the day’s program. The Chairman also reminded everyone on the **aim** of the foodshow: the involvement of

youths in the planting, maintenance and harvesting phases, participation in the koua preparations, and as ring crew, scorers, catering and kava crew.

The M.C invited veteran competitor, Mr. John Kaitu'u who spoke briefly on a former and active member and competitor in the late Master Fauoro Manueli being a man of all seasons with his charisma, humour, respect for others and passion for education, tradition and religion – **1 minute silence** (prayer remembering the former member and strength for his family).

Mr. Jioje Vafo'ou delivered the chief guest speech on behalf of **Fiu Niua** of Sydney and then declared the 2016 foodshow opened.

Guests – families and friends inspected the food crops on display as all supporting staff prepared their workstations for the commencement of the competition.

Mr. Joeli Erasito of Losa, Itu'ti'u who is a seasoned farmer in Haga, Juju was the competition judge this year.

Competition commenced at 9.15a.m with the Filipine ta measured for weight (Maha) and then the length (Roa) followed by Tapiko (maha only) – The **13 x taro, 10 x yam** varieties were measured for weight and length followed by the **4 x Temafa (Kumara, Pari** – 4 x varieties in faksara, sansani, vudi ma rahrahu, **Merene & Painapa**).

Fresh kava flowed during the event as Gagaj Tiu from Itu'muta, Rev Leo and Fagmanue Pene observed from their kava corner – **fel on le'et kat na ra se ta le'et** as the younger Navua kava crew served with enthusiasm whole day.

Assorted home-made baked pastries, coffee and juice were served during morning tea and were enjoyed by everyone present.

Competition break for buffet lunch at 1.05 p.m and everyone were treated to red pork, curry chicken, fried fresh fish, koua puaka/fupag masi/moa, palusami, fekei mara ma a'ana and niufo'ou.

The competition resumed after lunch with the remaining yams and temafa varieties were weighed. The music entertainment this year with the unavailability of our local PRO-AMS band was through sound system of selected Rotuman, Island and Fijian Vude hits which livened the event as the competitors and guests took the floor with some exciting island moves.

The last crop was measured at 3.30p.m followed by farmers group photo session and end of competition cheers to the audience for their support and patience during the event as the score-keepers—Mary Kaitu'u, Akanisi Manueli, Zackly Konrote, Kristiana, Talei & Sina Kotobalavu—tallied up the points for awards and bets payout.

The following messrs noticeable presence in this year's event:

- ✚ Gagaj Tiu
- ✚ Visoni Ufiamorat
- ✚ Emeli Inia
- ✚ Fanefau Tivao
- ✚ Maika Vitori
- ✚ Suzie David
- ✚ Jennifer Morris

2016 Results:

- ✚ ***Heaviest Taro: Mr. Jioje Fonmoa, Navua, 6.25kg***
- ✚ ***Longest Taro: Mr. Jioje Aisea, Navua, 73.0cm***
- ✚ ***Champion Taro 2016: Mr. Jioje Fonmoa***
- ✚ ***Longest Yam: Mr. Jioje Fonmoa, Filipine Ta, 75.81cm***
- ✚ ***Heaviest Yam: Mr. Freddy Wesley, Filipine Ta, 39.28kg***
- ✚ ***Champion Yam 2016: Mr. Jioje Fonmoa***
- ✚ ***Heaviest Cassava: Mr. Wesley Konrote, Ul Mi'a Ta, 21.04kg***
- ✚ ***Heaviest Kumara – Mr. John Kaitu'u & Mr. Rigamoto Taito, 1.54kg***
- ✚ ***Champion Temafa 2016 – Mr. Jioje Fonmoa***
- ✚ ***Champion Ho'aga – Navua***
- ✚ ***Overall Champion 2016(5th consecutive year) – Mr. Jioje Fonmoa***

Existing Records:

- ✚ Heaviest Yam: Filipine Ta – 83.4kg, Francis Varea (2010)
- ✚ Longest Yam: 'Uh Fit ta' - 105cm, Jioje Fonmoa (2005)
- ✚ Heaviest Taro: Navua – 7.9kg, Freddy Wesley (2005)
- ✚ Longest Taro: Pulou ne Hoi Ta – 98cm, Tausie Amoe (2005)
- ✚ Heaviest Cassava: Soko Bale – 71.9kg, Freddy Wesley (2005)

Mr. Jioje Fonmoa was again pronounced the Overall Champion 2016 (five consecutive years). Humble in victory, the champion acknowledged the stiff competition this year with a special mention to the veteran competitor in Mr. John Kaitu'u of being the pillar of strength in his words of advice and passion for gardening and the continuity of such event. The champion's sound advice was for all the competitors to prepare well for next year's competition and then thanked his family for their awesome support all year around especially his dear pearl in Mrs. Lily Fonmoa.

Mr. Sam George again thanked families and friends on behalf of the farmers for their continuous support and donations in kind and being a member of the victorious Navua Hoaga challenged the other two Hoagas for 2017.

The Chairman on behalf of the Navua Rotuman Farmers Association in acknowledgement thanked all guests, family members and friends for their continuous support in enabling the successful organizing of the event and prayed that the Lord Almighty bless them richly.

The M.C tuned the Rotuman anthem *Atumotu Helava La Kele*, which was sung beautifully by all.

Reverend Fereti Leo delivered the benediction followed by the end of 2016 Food-show cheer by the Navua Rotuman Community youths.

At 5.00p.m all guests were directed to their respective food crop piles as a token of appreciation for their contribution to the day's event.

The Navua Rotuman Farmers and their families again gathered for the 2016 post foodshow meeting on Saturday, 4th June, 2016 at the Konrote residence for kava, serenading, jek ne poro, pas 'ja ro ma lon' and buffet koua lunch with the following members elected to form the organizing committee for 2017 Foodshow Competition:

- Jioje Fonmoa - Chairman
- John Taito - remained as Secretary
- Freddy Wesley - Committee member
- Wesley Konrote - Committee member

Ua'ak ti'se haiasoag hanisit ne po e hensasiag e/Thank you to the following **guests, family members and friends** for your **generous donations** to the event to **the sum of \$2,970.00:**

- ✚ Fiu Niua & family - Sydney
- ✚ Kijiana Samuela & Marie Jione & families - Brisbane
- ✚ Rotuman soldiers serving with 1st Fiji Infantry Battalion in Golan Heights
- ✚ Hanisi Taito - Suva
- ✚ Paul & Rigamoto Taito - Lautoka
- ✚ Fanefau Tivao - Valelevu
- ✚ Freddy & Mue Wesley – Pacific Harbour
- ✚ Maika Vitori - Lautoka
- ✚ Akanisi & Mauri Varea - Suva
- ✚ Lili Somone & family – Pacific Harbour
- ✚ Samuel Manueli & family – Nakaulevu, Deuba
- ✚ Tausia & Asena Amoe - Navua
- ✚ Rev F.Leo & Radini & family - Navua
- ✚ Fagmanue Pene & family - Navua
- ✚ Gagaj Tiu & family – Waikalou, Deuba
- ✚ Visoni Ufiamorat & family – Pacific Harbour
- ✚ Suzie David & family - Suva
- ✚ Jennifer Morris & family – Nadawa, Nasinu

- ✦ Josaia Van Dem – Taunovo, Deuba
- ✦ Fesaitu Samuela – Pacific Harbour
- ✦ Tifanue & family - Suva